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General and complete disarmament: nuclear disarmament

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Note verbale dated 24 October 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to transmit herewith the appeal of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Parliaments and Governments all over the world to take real steps aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons, which was adopted on 24 September 2001 (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations requests that the present letter be circulated as a document of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under items 74 (r), "Nuclear disarmament", and 82, "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty".

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Annex to the note verbale dated 24 October 2001 from the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

An Appeal to Parliaments and Governments of the Countries of the World

The twentieth century was marked by the advent of the nuclear era, which not only gave to the entire world the hope of having an inexhaustible source of energy for peaceful purposes, but also gave rise to the nuclear-arms race, which threatens the existence of mankind itself. Ten years ago, thanks to the political will of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, N. A. Nazarbayev, with the support of the people of Kazakhstan, the Semipalatinsk nuclear-testing site, which caused irreparable harm to the country's population and environment and became a symbol of the disasters that nuclear weapons bear within themselves, was closed down.

The closing of the testing site was the first step that made mankind believe in building a nuclear-free, stable and safe world and in the possibility of protecting it from the threat of a global catastrophe.

Having given up its military nuclear potential, Kazakhstan strictly adheres to its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The fact that the Treaty is the sole multilateral agreement in the field of nuclear weapons control which obliges States parties to undertake nuclear-disarmament measures is in our view most important. All questions in the field of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation require the joint efforts of both the nuclear as well as the non-nuclear States, particularly in view of the growing interest of international terrorist organizations in nuclear weapons.

Kazakhstan views the speedy entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty as an important priority in the field of disarmament. Its implementation will give further impetus to the nuclear-disarmament process, by promoting the subsequent complete destruction of nuclear weapons.

Kazakhstan attaches great importance to the maintenance of peace and security in Central Asia and is interested in taking further steps towards carrying out the initiative of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia.

We are convinced that such a zone in Central Asia will be an important step towards strengthening the non-proliferation regime for weapons of mass destruction and international peace and security.

We profoundly believe that the security of the peoples of the world depends on the political will and desire of all countries to rid the world of nuclear weapons. Kazakhstan's position on the question of the complete elimination of the nuclear threat in the twenty-first century was clearly defined by the President of the Republic at the international conference dedicated to the tenth anniversary of the closing of the Semipalatinsk testing site.

We call upon the Parliaments and Governments of the countries of the world to demonstrate, following the example of Kazakhstan, their responsibility for the fate of mankind and to make a real contribution to the cause of nuclear disarmament.

We consider that the Parliaments and Governments of the countries of the world community must take the necessary steps to ensure the complete destruction of nuclear weapons throughout the world.

The Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Astana, 24 September 2001